

Robin Beard of Tennessee
 Daniel Baugh Brewster of Maryland
 Frank Welsh Burke of Kentucky
 Julia Carson of Indiana
 Donald Clancy of Ohio
 Jo Ann Davis of Virginia
 Mendel Davis of South Carolina
 Bill Dickinson of Alabama
 Jennifer Dunn of Washington
 John Flynt of Georgia
 Paul Gillmor of Ohio
 Gilbert Gude of Maryland
 Augustus Hawkins of California
 Peter Hoagland of Nebraska
 William Hungate of Missouri
 Henry Hyde of Illinois
 Tom Lantos of California
 John Mackie of Michigan
 Wiley Mayne of Iowa
 Thomas Meskill of Connecticut
 Howard Metzenbaum of Ohio
 Joseph G. Minish of New Jersey
 Parren J. Mitchell of Maryland
 George Sangmeister of Illinois
 Robert Sweeney of Ohio
 Craig Thomas of Wyoming
 Guy Vander Jagt of Michigan
 Charles Vanik of Ohio
 Joseph Waggoner of Louisiana
 Robert Young of Missouri.

I would like for you to stand up and let's have just a moment of silence for our fallen comrades.

Thank you.

Mr. HOYER mentioned that things aren't as friendly and as engaging as they were when we were here. That's all true. I have thought many times sitting out there where you are about the words that we see in front of us, Justice, Tolerance and Liberty. To the extent that we have liberty, and I believe that we do, and to the extent that we have justice and I believe that we do, we're lacking in tolerance. I would say to all of us that we might take it upon ourselves to talk to our sitting colleagues from time to time and say to them, we wish you guys would get along a little better and work harder on the business of the country rather than on your own reelections and your own egos. I think that probably is almost a duty for us, to remind them that this body doesn't exist for single individuals, it exists for the body and it exists for the institution and it exists to forward the business of the country.

I don't think that that's outside the purview of the charter of the former Members of Congress. That's not lobbying an issue. It's lobbying attitude and it's lobbying getting things done. There's only one way to get into this organization, and that's to get elected. There are only three ways to leave. Two of them are not pleasant. There's nobody sitting here now who took the way out with your boots on, but several of us who left because we were defeated in elections and several of us chose to resign, or retire, but we are former Members of this institution and I think that we ought to assert ourselves with our sitting colleagues when we feel that they are not forwarding the interests of the country as much as

we would like for them to do and the country would like for them to do.

Mr. Speaker, that concludes the annual report of the Former Members of Congress. And we did it 5 minutes early.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. HERTEL. I want to thank the President for his presentation and his leadership today and commend him, because this is a record time for our association. I think it's because our association has gone from having some retired people that were a bit long-winded to having more and more active people and go right to the point about, as we have seen this morning, reporting on the activities of the Association, how we have reached out to the Nation and the world as far as leadership for democracy and public service.

I want to take a moment just to thank Ken Kramer, a board member, for all his leadership, Ken from Colorado; and Barbara Kennelly for her leadership on the board and with our association across the board; Mr. Zeliff from New Hampshire for all he's done in support of our association. And to go through the list of the people that made the presentations today: Mr. Buechner, who's just done such an excellent job all these years of giving advice and counsel and leading our association. Mr. Matt McHugh from New York who was past President, also who continues to demonstrate and lead in the area of public service, especially for our young people now today. Lou Frey, who has been with us all these years as past President but chairman of our Dinner Committee and without his leadership we would not have the opportunity to do the things we are doing in our country and around the world with the finances that he has helped raise, especially for our Congress to Campus Program where we now reach over 60 campuses per year.

And, finally, to thank Doug Rowland from Canada, the past President there of their parliamentary association that we helped with in their infancy but now he has shown great leadership of the highest order in the IEMI and helping us with training election monitors not only for ourselves but for other former parliamentarians in an international organization with the European Union and the association of former Canadian parliamentarians.

Let me close by just summarizing what Jay, our President, said about our staff. We simply have the best staff in Washington, D.C. I think we can say that in one sentence.

The Chair again wishes to thank all the former Members of the House for their presence here today. Before terminating these proceedings, the Chair would like to invite those former Members who did not respond when the roll was taken to give their names to the Reading Clerks for inclusion in the roll. The Chair wishes to thank the other former Members of the House for their presence here today. Good luck to you all.

The Chair would advise that the House will reconvene at approximately 10:30 a.m. this morning.

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, before we adjourn, could we identify and ask our distinguished visiting Parliamentarians to rise and make them a part of our CONGRESSIONAL RECORD today.

Mr. HERTEL. They are in the gallery. We recognize them now, Mr. Gilman, and we thank them all for coming.

Our proceedings are adjourned. Thank you.

Accordingly (at 9 o'clock and 58 minutes a.m.), the House continued in recess.

□ 1032

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mrs. TAUSCHER) at 10 o'clock and 32 minutes a.m.

PRINTING OF PROCEEDINGS HAD DURING RECESS

Mr. BRALEY of Iowa. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the proceedings had during the recess be printed in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD and that all Members and former Members who spoke during the recess have the privilege of revising and extending their remarks.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Iowa?

There was no objection.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will entertain up to 15 1-minute requests per side.

A PLAN TO SUPPORT OUR ECONOMY AND OUR INFRASTRUCTURE NEEDS

(Mr. BLUMENAUER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Madam Speaker, JOHN MCCAIN has famously said that he doesn't know much about economic issues. But it's paradoxical that the Republican presidential candidate's idea for helping a troubled economy is to put people out of work and make traffic congestion worse and freight movement harder.

His proposal to stop collecting the gas tax will cut critical funding that keeps commuters, freight and our economy running. And when the trust fund is moving into deficit for the first time in our history he will only make that problem worse.

It will also lead to the loss of over 300,000 highway-related jobs, while there's no evidence that huge oil companies will cut their prices when they get this gas tax "Holiday". It is the

worst kind of pandering to mortgage the future to serve current political needs.

Instead, it's time for our presidential candidates to talk about their vision, their plan to support our economy and our infrastructure needs.

OLYMPIC TORCH THUGS

(Mr. PITTS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PITTS. Madam Speaker, with the Olympic torch traveling the world right now, we are seeing the Chinese Government's true repressive colors. Everywhere it stops, it is accompanied by a group of Chinese guards who have been called "thugs" in the press.

I am not surprised that Chinese leaders would send secret police along to protect the torch, but I am surprised the United States would be so complicit in putting down dissent that they would allow members of the Chinese secret police into the United States to ensure the security of the relay.

Are we so concerned with appeasing China that we could not ensure the security of the flame ourselves?

The group designated to protect the torch is from the paramilitary People's Armed Police, the same force that helped to violently quash the recent protests in Tibet, now using brute force to ensure that protestors in cities like Paris, London and San Francisco, will not interrupt the ceremonial relay.

Maybe the Chinese need to be reminded that repression and torture are not Olympic sports.

IT'S NOT NEARLY ENOUGH

(Mr. COHEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. COHEN. Madam Speaker, as many as 2.8 million Americans could lose their homes in the next 5 years due to the subprime mortgage crisis, yet the Bush administration refuses to properly address the crisis.

Last month the administration was willing to bail out Bear Stearns, but when they announced their plans to overhaul the regulation of financial institutions, they failed to properly address any of the needs of families who face the loss of their homes in the coming months.

The housing crisis demands bold action, and this House has already responded by passing legislation that would expand affordable mortgage loans opportunities to families at risk of foreclosure.

We've also passed bills that would raise Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac loan limits to increase liquidity in the mortgage market and that would increase the supply of affordable housing. And now we have a plan that would help 1.5 million homeowners afford foreclosure.

Madam Speaker, we hope the administration will join us in supporting these important bills that will provide necessary relief to those families feeling the impact of the housing crisis.

LAST CURTAIN CALL FOR FREE SPEECH IN FRANCE

(Mr. POE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. POE. Madam Speaker, the curtain has dropped on the stage of free speech in Paris, France for actress Brigitte Bardot. The birthplace of enlightenment has now become home to conformity and political correctness, and rigid speech control.

In France, if speech is offensive, a person can be fined and imprisoned. That's what French prosecutors are trying to do to Brigitte Bardot, claiming she incited racial hatred toward the Muslim community.

Bardot wrote comments in a letter to Nicolas Sarkozy that offended Muslims. Bardot, an animal rights activist, denounced a Muslim festival that including slaughtering sheep by saying she was "fed up with being led by this population which is destroying us, and destroying France."

Now the French speech control police claim it's a crime to speak ill of Muslims. So much for freedom of speech in progressive France.

Speech control is a throwback to the Dark Ages when no one could say anything bad about the king. Gone is the citizen Voltaire's philosophy of "I may disapprove of what you say, but I will defend it to the death for you to say it."

But today French citizens that speak their mind may face the modern day Bastille if they offend Muslims or hurt their feelings. It looks like the last curtain call for actress Brigitte Bardot and free speech in France.

And that's just the way it is.

CONGRATULATING MARK SMITH ON HIS RETIREMENT AS PRESIDENT OF THE IOWA FEDERATION OF LABOR

(Mr. BRALEY of Iowa asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BRALEY of Iowa. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor my friend and my hero, Mark Smith, and to congratulate Mark on his retirement as President of the Iowa Federation of Labor.

Over the past 34 years, Mark has been a fierce advocate for Iowa's working families. He started as an instructor at the University of Iowa Labor Center in 1974; was elected Secretary-Treasurer of the Iowa Fed in 1979, and served in that position until he was elected President of the Iowa Federation of Labor in 1997.

Mark has dedicated his life to the cause of working men and women in Iowa. Protecting the rights of workers

has been a long and difficult struggle, and no one has given more time and energy to the cause than Mark Smith.

Mark is living proof that one person can make an enormous difference in the lives of thousands of individuals. Many of the people he helped never knew what he did for them and never had a chance to thank him personally. I stand here today on their behalf, because I want Mark to know that nameless people here are honoring his lifetime of heroic efforts. His lifetime of service leaves a legacy that challenges future generations of labor leaders to continue his efforts to further the cause of working families.

Mark may have retired from office, but he will never retire from his real passion, speaking out against injustice and pushing people to do more to take care of each other.

CONGRATULATIONS TO ITALIAN PRIME MINISTER SILVIO BERLUSCONI

(Mr. WILSON of South Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, this week Silvio Berlusconi has been reelected as Prime Minister of Italy. His coalition won a strong majority in the Italian Parliament.

Prime Minister-elect Berlusconi, the conservative leader of the Forza Italia political party and the new People of Freedom party, had been a strong ally of the United States in his previous tenure as Prime Minister. No doubt his reelection will mean a strengthening of our partnership with the people of Italy who have so positively influenced American culture.

Berlusconi's election follows a growing line of European leaders, including Chancellor Angela Merkel of Germany and President Nicolas Sarkozy of France, who have run on a platform of greater support for a strong alliance with America. Additional presidents promoting improved friendship with America have recently been elected in Indonesia, Serbia, Liberia, Peru, Korea and Russia.

America has earned admiration of most nations in the world, as identified yesterday by Pope Benedict XVI at the White House as he indicated America is the beacon of liberty and freedom.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and we will never forget September the 11th.

CHILDREN ARE A PRECIOUS RESOURCE

(Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Madam Speaker, as the co-chair of the Congressional Children's Caucus, I have worked on issues dealing with child